

Appl. No. 10/658,813
Amdt. Dated Jan. 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the entire specification and amended the claim 1. The added features presented in amended claim 1 are found, e.g., in claims 2 and 3, as originally filed. The claims 2 and 3 are thereby cancelled. Therefore, there is no new matter entered. Also, claim 8, previously withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement, has been cancelled.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended; claims 2-3 and 8 have been cancelled; and claims 4-7 remain unchanged.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

In response to this rejection, with respect to claim 4, Applicant submits, as recited in the specification, that skilled people in the art usually attach plastic protective films on the two main surfaces of the light guide plate, thereby isolating the light guide plate from moisture in the air before processing the light guide plate. That is, the plastic protective films are capable of isolating the light guide plate from moisture in the air before processing the light guide plate. This desired capability of the plastic protective films gives guidance in the selection of the material used. In addition, it is noted that plastic material is commonly used as a moisture barrier in the art. For example, US Patent No. 4,936,473 discloses the preferred materials for the moisture barrier layers are a moisture barrier polymer such as SARAN (PVDC) or suitable olefins. Therefore, one

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skilled in the art is able to attain the plastic protective films to practice the claimed invention.

Furthermore, claim 2, the content of which has now been added into amended claim 1, recited in part:

“the polymer coating has two sides, one side being hydrophobic, and the opposite side being lipophilic.”

Thus, Applicant submits that a polymer coating that is able to exhibit both hydrophobic and lipophilic properties is known to those skilled in the art. According to the dissolving rule of “like dissolves like”, hydrophobic and lipophilic are characteristics of certain polymers, and such characteristics are compatible with one another. That is, a polymer is capable of having both hydrophobic and lipophilic qualities. This desired amphiphilic capability of the polymer coating gives guidance to one of ordinary skill in the art in the selection of the material used. For example, US Patent No. 4,276,141 provides a solid state electrode including an electrically conductive element and dual lipophilic-hydrophobic polymers, and US Patent No. 6,007,845 discloses a multifunctional compound with one or more hydrophobic polymers and one or more hydrophilic polymers. Other examples of lipophilic-hydrophobic polymers can be found in DE19501920 and JP2003063165. Therefore, it is clear, to one skilled in the art, what type of “polymer” is both lipophilic and hydrophobic or even both hydrophobic and hydrophilic. As such, Applicant submits that, based on the evidence as a whole and following the guidelines set forth in MPEP §2164.05, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of instant invention would have known of various lipophilic-hydrophobic polymers and

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polymer combinations.

Applicant accordingly submits, for reasons essentially provided above, that claim 1, as amended, and claims 4-7 are clear and comply with the enablement requirement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ouellet et al. (US 20020064359), Applicant has amended claim 1 and hereby otherwise respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

“forming a polymer coating on one of the surfaces of the light guide plate which is not to be processed after removing the films, the polymer coating being formed on the surface before further steps of processing, the polymer coating having two sides, one side being hydrophobic, the other opposite side adjacent the light guide plate being lipophilic.”

The Examiner states that “Ouellet et al. teach optical substrates which are coated with temporary protective layers”. However, Ouellet et al., clearly fails to disclose or suggest that the polymer coating has two sides, one side being hydrophobic, the other opposite side adjacent the light guide plate being lipophilic, as now required by claim 1. In fact, this point is essentially admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action as the subject matter in question was a part of claims 2 and 3, as originally filed, and the Examiner did not reject either claims 2 or 3 based upon Ouellet et al., either under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a).

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As such, Applicant submits, for reasons essentially provided above, that such subject matter, as set forth in amended claim 1, is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Ouellet et al. or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

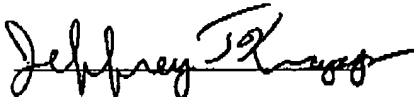
Accordingly, the amended claim 1, as well as claim 7 depending therefrom, is submitted to be patentable over the prior art cited by Examiner; and the withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1 and 7 are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that claims 4-6 are allowable over the prior art based upon their own merits, given that no prior art rejection was applied against such claims as part of the current Office Action. Furthermore, claims 4-6 depend upon claim 1, which is now in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

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For all the above reasons, Applicant asserts that the pending amended claim 1, and claims 4-7 are now in proper form and are patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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